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**IN THE CLAIMS**

1. (original) A method for inspecting a uniformity of pressure applied between a conditioner and a polishing pad on a chemical mechanical polisher, the method comprising the steps of:  
placing a sheet of pressure sensitive material between the conditioner and the  
5 polishing pad,  
lowering the conditioner onto the sheet of pressure sensitive material,  
applying a desired degree of pressure between the conditioner and the polishing  
pad, thereby creating an impression in the sheet of pressure sensitive  
material,  
10 lifting the conditioner from the sheet of pressure sensitive material, and  
inspecting the sheet of pressure sensitive material to determine the uniformity of  
the pressure applied between the conditioner and the polishing pad.
2. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of correcting  
sources of any non-uniformities detected in the pressure applied between the  
conditioner and the polishing pad.
3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of inspecting the sheet of  
pressure sensitive material comprises a visual inspection.
4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the impression indicates that a pressure  
threshold has been exceeded.
5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the impression exhibits varying degrees  
of a single characteristic of indication based upon varying degrees of pressure  
applied between the conditioner and the polishing pad.
6. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the impression exhibits multiple  
characteristics of indication based upon varying degrees of pressure applied  
between the conditioner and the polishing pad.

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7. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the impression exhibits varying colors based upon varying degrees of pressure applied between the conditioner and the polish pad.
8. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of inspecting the sheet of pressure sensitive material to determine the uniformity of the pressure applied between the conditioner and the polishing pad further comprises:  
5 optically scanning and digitizing the impression on the sheet of pressure sensitive material, and  
comparing the scanned and digitized impression to a database of scanned and digitized impressions.
9. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:  
optically scanning and digitizing the impression on the sheet of pressure sensitive material,  
5 associating with the scanned and digitized impression data in regard to conditions of the chemical mechanical polisher at a time that the impression was created, and  
storing the scanned and digitized impression and associated data in a database.
10. (cancelled)  
11. (cancelled)  
12. (cancelled)  
13. (cancelled)  
14. (cancelled)  
15. (cancelled)  
16. (cancelled)  
17. (cancelled)  
18. (cancelled)
19. (original) A method for inspecting a uniformity of pressure applied between a conditioner and a polishing pad on a chemical mechanical polisher, the method comprising the steps of:  
5 placing a sheet of pressure sensitive material between the conditioner and the polishing pad,

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- lowering the conditioner onto the sheet of pressure sensitive material,  
applying a desired degree of pressure between the conditioner and the polishing  
pad, thereby creating an impression in the sheet of pressure sensitive  
material,  
10 lifting the conditioner from the sheet of pressure sensitive material,  
inspecting the sheet of pressure sensitive material to determine the uniformity of  
the pressure applied between the conditioner and the polishing pad, by  
optically scanning and digitizing the impression on the sheet of pressure  
sensitive material, and  
15 comparing the scanned and digitized impression to a database of scanned  
and digitized impressions, and  
correcting sources of any non-uniformities detected in the pressure applied  
between the conditioner and the polishing pad.
20. (original) The method of claim 19, further comprising the steps of:  
associating with the scanned and digitized impression data in regard to conditions  
of the chemical mechanical polisher at a time that the impression was  
created, and  
5 storing the scanned and digitized impression and associated data in the database.